

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY OF FARM CREDIT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 14, 2016*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the cooperative owners and employees of the Farm Credit System for their continuing service in meeting the credit and financial-services needs of rural communities and agriculture.

Since 1916, the Farm Credit System has served rural Americans.

I was pleased to cosponsor House Resolution 591, introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chairman MIKE CONAWAY & Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON, as well as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for Commodity Exchanges, Energy & Credit, Chairman AUSTIN SCOTT and Ranking Member DAVID SCOTT.

This resolution recognizes the cooperative owners and employees of the Farm Credit System for their 100 years of service to Rural America.

Today, the Farm Credit System plays a vital role in the success of United States agriculture, providing more than \$237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 customers.

For example, in my home state of Alabama, Farm Credit makes over 7,000 loans per year. Almost 10 percent of the farmers they serve are considered Young Operators.

Since 2011, Farm Credit has returned \$10.9 million dollars back to their borrowers. I applaud the Farm Credit System's dedication to providing farmers with the means to serve America.

RECOGNIZING THE CALIFORNIA  
STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD  
MEN'S BASKETBALL  
TEAM'S 2015-2016 SEASON

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) men's basketball team and its unprecedented success in the 2015-2016 season. I commend the hard work of the Roadrunners and strong leadership of Head Coach Rod Barnes, Assistant Coaches Jeff Conarro, James Alford, and Mark Hsu, and Director of Basketball Operations JD Pollock. The Roadrunner men's basketball team has represented our community well, and brought national attention to Bakersfield through dedication that was always reflected in their games. I am honored—as an alumnus myself—to be able to add my voice to the chorus of praise, and to congratulate their season of accomplishment.

On March 18, 2016, the Roadrunners clashed against the number two seed in Oklahoma, on day one of the 2016 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Basketball Tournament. I witnessed firsthand the perseverance and grit they became famous for throughout the season. The Roadrunners

fiercely fought to match basket-for-basket against their heavily-favored opponents, even snatching the lead midway through the second half, but were ultimately outscored in the final few minutes.

As the Roadrunners celebrate their historic 24 victories in the Western Athletic Conference, and their first appearance in the NCAA Division I Tournament, I want to acknowledge the remarkable determination and incredible teamwork of Aly Ahmed, Jaylin Airington, Bray Barnes, Dedrick Basile, Damiyne Durham, Kyle Ferreira, Darryl Geyen, Justin Hollins, Kevin Mays, PJ Posey, Justin Pride, Matt Smith, and Brent Wrapp. A remarkable winning percentage of .727 reflects upon the immense amount of hard work they demonstrated throughout the entirety of the season.

The CSUB men's basketball team exemplifies our community's commitment to hard work, perseverance, and teamwork. The Roadrunners should be proud of their achievements this season, and I know that the community of Bakersfield joins me in congratulating them on their athletic accomplishments. My fellow Roadrunner alumni and our community look forward to watching their continued success in the seasons to follow.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JEFF KUSS

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Marine Corps Captain Jeff Kuss. Captain Kuss was a native of Durango, CO where he attended Durango High School and graduated from Ft. Lewis College with a degree in economics. His life was tragically cut short during a training accident on June 2, 2016 while he and the other Blue Angel pilots were practicing for an air show near Smyrna, Tennessee. Captain Kuss was a loving family man and is survived by his wife Christina Ferrarese Kuss, their two young children Calvin and Sloan, and his parents Michael and Janet of Durango.

Captain Kuss possessed a passion for aviation which took root at a young age. After a great deal of hard work and perseverance, he became one of the Navy's most talented pilots, being selected in 2014 to join the elite Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron. The Blue Angels are one of the world's most renowned squadrons, representing the men and women who serve in the nation's Armed Forces and showcasing the incredible training, skill and capability of our nation's elite military pilots. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have inspired patriotism and wonder in millions of fascinated spectators. Each pilot is hand-picked by current members of the squadron to join—a selection process that is a testament to the respect that his colleagues had for the talent and ability Captain Kuss possessed.

The entire Durango community is incredibly proud of Captain Kuss for his service to our nation and what he was able to achieve. When he was brought home to rest in Durango citizens lined the streets to pay their respects to this fallen hero, a testament to Captain Kuss' service, deep ties to the community and a life well-lived. The host of active duty

members that have and continue to pay tribute to Captain Kuss are a tribute to the many lives he impacted over the course of his career.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Jeff Kuss exemplified the very best of Colorado's Third Congressional District and of the brave men and women who risk all in service to our nation each day. We honor his service and memory, and offer our condolences and prayers for his family and friends. May they find peace during this most difficult time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP  
SAMUEL BLAKES

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pastor Samuel Blakes on his Episcopal Consecration to the office of Bishop. He is the loving husband of Stacy Blakes and an outstanding father to his two daughters. Bishop Samuel Blakes is the youngest son of Bishop Blakes, Sr. and has been pastoring for more than 21 years.

He and his brother Bishop Robert Blakes, Jr. serve as Co-Pastors at the New Home Family Worship Center, a ministry encompassing six locations across Louisiana and Texas. Bishop Samuel Blakes has the pleasure of serving as Pastor to both the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Ministries.

Bishop Samuel Blakes was called to ministry at a young age when he attended St. Augustine High School in New Orleans. His work in ministry began when he received his Bachelors of Theology from Christian Bible College of Louisiana and then went on to receive his Master's Degree in theology from the same institution. His dedication and love of God has allowed him to travel across the U.S. and abroad to spread the word of God. Not only does he travel to spread his message, but he and his brother, Bishop Robert Blakes, Jr. host their own weekly television show.

I join with the Blakes family in congratulating Bishop Samuel Blakes for his remarkable accomplishment.

HONORING MR. GARRY SAUNER  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2016*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special and remarkable civil servant on the occasion of his retirement. After forty-one years of service to the Nation, Mr. Garry Sauner will complete a most distinguished career as a financial manager and congressional liaison for the United States Air Force. For the past sixteen years, Mr. Sauner served as the Deputy Director and Chief of the Budget and Research Branch of the Air Force Office of Appropriations Liaison. In this role, Mr. Sauner has acted as the Air Force's principal liaison to this subcommittee.

From personal experience, I can state that his tireless efforts, wise counsel, and attention to detail led to the successful completion of